

REMARKS

By the present amendment and response, independent claim 1 and dependent claim 15 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections. Claims 1-6 and 11-15 are pending in the present application.

Applicant hereby confirms the provisional election that was made without traverse during a telephone conversation with Examiner El Arini on January 21, 2003 to prosecute claims of Group I, i.e. claims 1-6 and 11-15. Applicant has canceled claims 7-10 in the present application solely in response to the restriction requirement. Applicant hereby reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to claims 7-10.

Reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1-6 and 11-15 in view of the following remarks are requested.

The Examiner has objected to claim 15 under 37 CFR §1.75(c). Applicant has amended claim 15 in response to the Examiner's objection and respectfully submits that the requirements of 37 CFR §1.75(c) have been met.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 and 11-14 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent number 5,289,837 to Eduardo Betancourt ("Betancourt"). For the reasons discussed below, Applicant respectfully submits that the amended independent claim 1 and independent claim 11 are patentably distinguishable over Betancourt.

Amended independent claim 1 includes, among other things, a diesel service portion and a gasoline service portion, where the diesel service portion and the gasoline

service portion do not share a common hose. As disclosed in the present application, the automatic fuel cleaner apparatus includes a diesel service portion and a gasoline service portion, where diesel fuel does not enter the gasoline service portion and gasoline fuel does not enter the diesel service portion. As stated in the present application, the diesel and gasoline service portions include separate respective output hoses, which can be coupled to the fuel line inlet of a system being serviced, and separate respective input hoses, which can be coupled to the fuel line outlet of the system being service. Thus, the present invention advantageously achieves an automatic fuel cleaner apparatus that does not have to be flushed out or require filters to be changed when switching from gasoline to diesel, or from diesel to gasoline fuel systems.

In contrast, Betancourt does not teach, disclose, or suggest a diesel service portion and a gasoline service portion, where the diesel service portion and the gasoline service portion do not share a common hose. Betancourt specifically discloses a cleaning system comprising two overlapping systems, i.e. a gasoline engine cleaning system and a diesel engine cleaning system, which share a single set of supply and return ports. See, for example, Betancourt, column 2, lines 20-25. In Betancourt, solenoid valve 58 connects gas supply line 28 to main supply line coupling 24, and solenoid valve 58a or bypass valve 70 connects diesel supply line 62 to main supply line coupling 24. See, for example, column 3, lines 8-68, column 4, lines 1-17, and Figure 2 of Betancourt. Thus, in Betancourt the gasoline engine cleaning system and the diesel engine cleaning system

share main supply line coupling 24 and the main supply line situated between solenoid valves 58 and 58a, bypass valve 70, and main supply line coupling 24.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the amended independent claim 1 is not suggested, disclosed, or taught by Betancourt. As such, amended independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Betancourt. Thus, claims 2-6 depending from amended independent claim 1 are also patentably distinguishable over Betancourt for at least the reasons presented above and also for additional limitations contained in each dependent claim.

Independent claim 11 includes, among other things, a multi-port fuel block connected to a pump output, a first end of an output hose, and a solenoid, where the solenoid is capable of connecting the pump output to the first end of the output hose. As disclosed in the present application, the multi-port fuel block is connected to the pump output, a pressure gauge, the output hose, and the solenoid. As stated in the present application, the solenoid can advantageously connect the pump output to either the output hose or the pressure gauge. For example, when the solenoid connects the pump output to the pressure gauge, fluid is prevented from flowing through the output hose. Thus, by utilizing a solenoid connected to a multi-port fuel block, the present invention advantageously achieves an automatic fuel cleaner apparatus having a pump output that can be effectively connected to an output hose or a pressure gauge by a solenoid.

In contrast, Betancourt does not teach, disclose, or suggest a multi-port fuel block connected to a pump output, a first end of an output hose, and a solenoid, where the

solenoid is capable of connecting the pump output to the first end of the output hose.

Betancourt specifically discloses solenoid valve 58a and bypass valve 70, where solenoid valve 58a and bypass valve 70 are connected by lines to pump 36a, relief valve 46a, and pressure regulator 40a. See, for example, column 3, lines 65-68, column 4, lines 1-29, and Figure 2 of Betancourt. However, the above group of individual interconnected valves and lines does not include a multi-port fuel block as required by independent claim 11. Thus, Betancourt fails to teach, disclose, or suggest a multi-port fuel block that is connected to a pump output, a first end of an output hose, and a solenoid. In fact, Betancourt does not even teach, disclose, or suggest a multi-port fuel block.

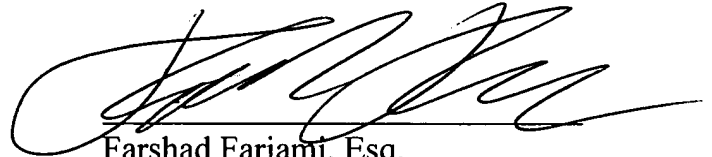
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claim 11 is not suggested, disclosed, or taught by Betancourt. As such, independent claim 11 is patentably distinguishable over Betancourt. Thus, claims 12-15 depending from independent claim 11 are also patentably distinguishable over Betancourt for at least the reasons presented above and also for additional limitations contained in each dependent claim.

Based on the foregoing reasons, amended independent claims 1 and independent claim 11, and claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinguishable over the art cited by the Examiner. For all the foregoing reasons, an early Notice of Allowance for pending claims 1-6 and 11-15 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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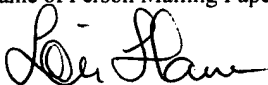
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